



## EDITORIAL

## Tis the Season for holiday gifts from the Conservation Department

The Elba Christmas float which shows off the beauty queens to local supporters also showed them off to Enterprise and New Brockton parade watchers this year. In fact the float won the pretty float first prize in Enterprise - or maybe the girls won - you decide. A lot of folks helped prepare that float with their hard work, but the New Seasons Study Club was "in charge" and their members naturally did most of the planning and probably most of the work also. All those who helped are to be commended.

The four laning of U.S. 84 from Andalusia to Enterprise continues to progress, even though not much activity can be seen right here in Elba. But that is going to change some day. Paving bids were opened last Friday on another stretch of the highway between Opp and Elba. There are two paving contracts out now which will bring the four lane work from the U.S. 331 Bypass in Opp to the Curtis Community. The Highway Department is still dealing with FEMA folks in Washington on right-of-way in Elba, but we think progress is being made.

In what appears to border on pure hate, complaints over the presidential election continue to fester - no explode would be a better word. Four years ago Florida couldn't hush the cries of foul following the Presidential election and this year it is Ohio's problem. Experience has shown that the complaints will never, ever go away. The only silver lining we see there is that it isn't a southern state this time around. However, instead of just calling a state's election officials "dumb", the label has been expanded to cover any one of us slow witted enough to vote for George W. Bush. Never mind that he got more votes and a larger percentage in 2004 than when he was a presidential unknown in 2000. Well that could be the basis for the complaints - the bigger win highly insulted the anti-Bush folks. Then maybe it is back to the saying, "everyone is dumb but you and me, and I am not so sure about you". When these complaining folks have lost as many election favorites as yours truly, maybe they will finally learn something. That something teaches us that once the election process has run its course, the winner is "our" public servant for the ensuing term of office.

A lot of people continue to ask about the status of the road work on the Troy Highway at the levee. Plans are to do something about the sharp hump as the road passes over the top of the levee. Well we can't answer that question. It was postponed from the originally announced date while the Corp, the highway department and the contractor worked out more details. We have heard several other start dates, but things are still quiet in that area. Apparently the only sure fire answer would be to see the barricades up and then you will know - it is finally happening.

## Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, Nov. 29, 2004, investigated the following incidents: two for public intoxication, two for theft of property, one gas drive-off, one breaking and entering a motor vehicle, one burglary, two for harassment, one trespassing, one criminal trespass, one wreck, two for assault, one dog bite and two for criminal mischief.

The following arrests were made: two for public intoxication, one for driving under the influence and one for failure to appear.

Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: five for speeding, one for driving without first obtaining a driver's license and one for a suspended driver's license.

Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows:

**MONDAY, NOV. 29** - Accident (vehicle vs. deer) reported on Hwy. 87 S (6:53 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a wreck near 9396 Hwy. 87 S (8:54 a.m.); Burglary reported at 1154 N. Morrow (10:46 a.m.).

**TUESDAY, NOV. 30** - Coffee County EMS dispatched to 184 County Rd. 150 (8:46 a.m.).

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 1** - River stage - 8.77 feet (7:06 a.m.); Disturbance (verbal) reported at 1026 Teresa St. (1:03 p.m.).

**THURSDAY, DEC. 2** - Coffee County EMS dispatched to 10795 Hwy. 87 S (5:59 a.m.); Burglary reported at 1681 Caroline St. (7:00 a.m.); River stage - 8.58 feet (7:00 a.m.);

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6 Months - \$10, including city & state tax  
Alabama County - \$21 per year - including tax  
6 months - \$11  
Outside Alabama - \$24 per year - 6 months - \$13

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ELBA CLIPPER • 171-080 • DECEMBER 9, 2004

Holiday shopping at the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources may seem a bit strange, but here are a few suggestions that might help with gift selection.

Try the Outdoors Nature Shop at [www.outdoorsalabama.com/outdoor-alabama/shop.cfm](http://www.outdoorsalabama.com/outdoor-alabama/shop.cfm) for an application, or easier still, order on line at [www.outdoorsalabama.com](http://www.outdoorsalabama.com).

Anyone with hunters or anglers on their list knows the vast selection of gift items available from sporting goods stores. The Conservation

(Continued from Page One)

is there for the service after the first of the year. Trash pickup will be a \$3 per month charge for each household.

The proposed list is as follows:

**Monday:** Lee Street, S. John Street, Adams Street, Ross Street, Mack Street, Vester Street, Street, Martin Luther King Street, Clay Street, Faulk Circle, Caldwell Street, Sawyer Street, Youngblood Street, Teal Street, and Pearl Street.

**Tuesday:** N. John Street, Rowe Bridge Road, Sparks Street, Lee Street, Dawkins Street, King Street, Brock Street, Rainey Street, Metalwood Street, Byrd Mill Road, Pritchett Road and Crist Mill Road.

**Wednesday:** Landfill Day (all over town);

**Thursday:** Railroad Street,

(Continued from Page One)

Fitzsimmons Street, Willow Street, Knight Street and Watkins Street.

**Friday:** Durham Street, W. McKinnon Street, Ainsley Street, S. John Street, Trudy Street, Morton Street, Watkins Street, Martin Luther King Street, Clay Street, Faulk Circle, Caldwell Street, Sawyer Street, Youngblood Street, Teal Street, and Pearl Street.

**Saturday:** N. John Street, Rowe Bridge Road, Sparks Street, Lee Street, Dawkins Street, King Street, Brock Street, Rainey Street, Metalwood Street, Byrd Mill Road, Pritchett Road and Crist Mill Road.

**Sunday:** Railroad Street,

(Continued from Page One)

city, so the City of Elba assisted in the purchase.

Dean said the city provided Coffee County EMS with \$6,000 to put towards the purchase and also used its credit line to finance the other \$9,000

until EMS can raise the money to pay off the debt.

Pat Crosby, operations manager for Coffee County EMS, said both the City of Elba and City of Geneva went out of their way to make this deal happen, and each should be commended.

He said the purchase of the '94 model ambulance allows EMS to retire a 1985 back-up ambulance.

"We now have three ambulances in good shape," Crosby said.

He purchased the '94 model ambulance for \$12,000.

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# CHURCH & AREA NEWS

**ROUND &  
ABOUT WITH  
ERIA 897-2006**

**SCRIPTURE: LUKE 1:34**

**\*\*\*THINKING OF YOU,  
PRAYING FOR YOU:**

Pearlicle James  
Lewis Nelson  
Mary Alice Blue  
Minister Robert Edwards  
Rayfield Reynolds  
Lela Tyson  
Bessie Mullins  
Mary E. Holley  
Mattie Belcher  
Lizzie Tyson  
Johnnie Ruth Belcher  
Dora Belcher

**BIRTHDAYS**

Clara Wright-Dec. 10  
Vernette Purvis-Dec. 10  
Kenneth Hardwick-Dec. 10  
Tony Kelley-Dec. 11  
John Lawrence-Dec. 11

**THANKSGIVING DINNER  
AT THE DUNCANS - Those**

**The Hoskins Family to be in concert at  
Jack Assembly of God December 9th**

The Hoskins Family from Springfield, Ohio, will be in concert at Jack Assembly of God on Thursday, December 9 at 7 p.m. This Southern Gospel group has been nominated for Dove, SGMAs, and the Singing News Fan Awards and is best

**The Kirklands to be in concert  
at Country Cathedral**

The Kirklands will be in concert at Country Cathedral Assembly of God Friday, December 10, 2004 at 7 p.m. Country Cathedral is located on

**Happy 1st Birthday  
Mar'Shawn Fitzpatrick**

December 9th  
Love,  
Mom & Dad

**ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH  
SAMSON, Ala.**

**ALBERTON BAPTIST CHURCH**

**BASIN BAPTIST CHURCH**

**BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH**

**BLUFF SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH**

**BROOKLYN BAPTIST CHURCH**

**CHESTNUT GROVE METHODIST CHURCH**

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST E. H. HILL, Minister**

**DAMASCUS BAPTIST CHURCH**

**FAIRVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH**

**ELBA ZION BAPTIST CHURCH**

**ELBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**ELBA ZION BAPTIST CHURCH**

**ELIA BAPTIST CHURCH**



# SPORTS

## Views From.... THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

We now have all the Christmas decorations up at the Mularz house and for the first time in years even Dad helped a little putting up the tree. I did my usual good deed of bringing in the boxes of decorations and untangling all the lights, and now the girls tell me it's time for me to head out and find some gifts to put under the tree. Let's see, with fifteen shopping days left I should be able to find at least a few gifts. Ho, ho, ho!

### FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH...

\*\*\* The Elba Tigers were flying high after winning three straight games to bring home the championship trophy in a Thanksgiving tournament over in New Brockton, but crash landed last week at the beginning of the regular season and have not caught their games as their record slipped to 3-3. While it is true the Tigers have always struggled to bring home wins from Zion Chapel, Opp and New Brockton, after the early success at the tournament even the most pessimistic Elba fan was convinced this was the year the Tigers would break out and be big winners. There is still plenty of time to pile up the wins. However, after last week now even the most optimistic Elba fan is predicting a long season filled with losses. Elba lost one of its leading scorers and its top rebounder prior to the Opp game due to disciplinary problems, and since have seen another starter quit the team along with two reserves. Okay, the Tigers have some obvious problems and may no longer be one of the top teams in the area, but they still have very talented players and I expect the players to pull things back together and bounce back as the season rolls along.

\*\*\* Zion Chapel already has three wins under its belt and both Kinston and New Brockton have two wins to show in early-season action, which means maybe the county schools will give their fans more to cheer about than many originally thought. The Rebels have already claimed two wins over New Brockton and one over Elba to open the season with a bang, while New Brockton posted wins last week over Arinton and Elba to bring two big wins on their poster and Kinston added a win over Zion Chapel last week for its second win of the season. It is way to early to get excited about a couple of wins, but for the fans in the county it does give them something to look forward to on the long, cool nights.

\*\*\* The Brantley Bulldogs saw their quest for an offensive machine last week in Sweet Water and were eliminated from their playoffs with a 34-20 loss to the Bulldogs from Marengo County. Prior to the game I was worried that perhaps the Brantley offense had hit a lull and would not be at full speed in the semifinal match-up, but never in my wildest dreams did I expect the defense to struggle and give up five touchdowns and over four hundred yards in total offense. The Bulldogs had played five straight tough games in wins over Arinton, Luverne, A.L. Johnson, Reeltown and American Christian and had to take a long road trip for the second straight week, but there could be no excuses after the game Friday night because on that night Sweet Water was just the better team. The Bulldogs have now posted a 25-2 record over the past two seasons and kept Brantley on the map as one of the top 1A football programs in the state. With the hard work and dedication that is such a big part of the program at Brantley, there can be no doubt another state title cannot be far away.

\*\*\* Last week's high school playoffs were filled with big games in all classes and there were a couple of surprises in all six classifications. Undefeated Brantley falling to Sweet Water was the biggest surprise in the 1A ranks, while Woodland getting past Clay County, in 2A was a shock, T.R. Miller falling to Oniconta in 3A was the biggest surprise of the week. Demopolis barreling over UMS-Wright somewhat of a surprise in 4A, Staphone Elmore giving up bunches of points was a surprise in the 5A circuit and Prattville beating Carver by thirty points was a big surprise in 6A. After fifteen weeks of play there really are no surprises, but these did surprise me.

\*\*\* Auburn struggled at times in its SEC title game against Tennessee and despite being 12-0 really doesn't have that big a gripe about being left out of the national title contest in the Orange Bowl. The Tigers needed some big wins to jump past the top two teams in the polls, but closed out the season with less than spectacular wins over Alabama and Tennessee, and now will be left to proclaim themselves national champs if they can close out a 13-0 season with a win in the Sugar Bowl. It has been quite a season for the Tigers and their faithful and there is little doubt here Auburn would have a real chance to defeat both Southern Cal and Oklahoma if given the chance. Unfortunately, a couple of easy wins over cupcake opponents may have cost the Tigers this chance.

\*\*\* In closing, Ye Ole Polish Prognosticator dropped by early over the weekend and left this week's play-off picks. The local guesspert seemed a little bored with the process after some fourth round upsets, but after posting a 9-3 record last week and pushing his season totals to 267-57, he did agree to close out the season with his "Super Six" picks. Here goes (1A) Hubbard-Courtland 24 Sweet Water 13, (2A) Leroy 15 Woodland 6, (3A) Oniconta 21 Winfield 17, (4A) Demopolis 33 Dasher 13, (5A) Homewood 27 Russellville 14, and (6A) Hoover 17 Prattville 16.

## ELBA HOUSING AUTHORITY

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## Tigers take a tumble

The Elba Tigers hit the court three times last week in regular season action and took a tumble in all three games as their record slipped to 3-3 on the season.

The Tigers opened the week's play on Monday night in Zion Chapel and dropped a 76-65 decision, traveled to Opp on Thursday night and were pounded 62-37 and then on Friday night made the short trip over to New Brockton and lost 63-45.

Following are highlights of

Z.C. 76

ELBA 65

The Elba Tigers traveled to Zion Chapel last Monday night and suffered their first loss of the season as the Rebels pulled away late to cage the Tigers 76-65.

Elba owned an early 13-12 lead thanks to a three-pointer by Brandon Kelley, but saw the Rebels rally in the second stanza and led by the scoring of Abe Childs watched as Zion Chapel pulled out to a 32-28 halftime advantage. LaRay Williams scored 7 points in the third quarter to spark an Elba rally that enabled the Tigers to pull within 50-49. However, the Rebels regained command down the stretch and roared the hot hand of Jim Smith to pull away and claim the 76-65 win.

Mason Guley scored 20 points to lead Elba and LaRay Williams added 17, while Abe Childs paced in 31 points to spark the Rebels and Josh Smith finished with 28.

Z.C. 12 21 17 26 - 76  
ELBA 5 21 13 7 - 65

The Elba Tigers closed out a disappointing week with another disappointing loss as they fell to the New Brockton Gamecocks 63-45. Friday night in New Brockton.

The Tigers couldn't find the basket in the early going and fell behind 21-5 after one quarter of play, but bounced back in the second quarter and led by the three-point shooting of Brandon Kelley rallied to sneak ahead 26-24 midway through the stanza.

The Gamecocks regained command late in the quarter to take a 37-26 halftime advantage, then slowly pulled away over the final two quarters to defeat Elba 63-45.

Brandon Kelley scored 14 points to lead Elba, while Brett Parrish scored 28 points and Dee Finley added 25 points and pulled 15 rebounds to lead the Gamecocks.

Z.C. 26 16 14 12 - 63  
ELBA 5 21 10 9 - 45

The Elba Tigers fell behind early and never threatened Thursday night as they fell to the Opp Bobcats 62-37, in Opp.

Opp came out on fire and raced out to an early 10-0 lead

**Lady Tigers even record at 2-2**

The Elba Lady Tigers claimed two wins in three games last week to even their record at 2-2 in early-season basketball action.

The Lady Tigers opened the week in Zion Chapel and claimed a 46-30 win over the Lady Bobcats before dropping a 43-29 decision to the Opp Lady Bobcats before rallying late in the week to defeat New Brockton 53-32.

Following are highlights of all three games:

Z.C. 46

ELBA 30

The Elba Lady Tigers grabbed their first win of the season last Monday night by downing the Zion Chapel Lady Rebels 46-30, at Zion Chapel. The Lady Tigers used the early scoring of Whitney Lawford to jump out to an 8-5 first quarter advantage, but found the Lady Rebels to be anything but a willing victim as they carried a slim 28-26 lead into the fourth quarter. Elba finally took command in the final stanza and used the play of LaFonda Thigpen as a spark as the Lady Tigers pulled away and posted the 46-30 win.

Whitney Lawford scored 12 points and Ashleigh Waddall and Yolanda Reynolds both added 10 to lead Elba, while Inessa Wambles scored 14 points to lead Zion Chapel.

Z.C. 30

The Elba Lady Tigers used a big second quarter to pull ahead and never looked back as they rolled to an easy 53-32 win over the New Brockton Lady Gamecocks. Friday night in New Brockton the Lady Tigers trailed 8-7 after one quarter of play, but outscored the Lady Gamecocks 24-14 in the second stanza to grab a 31-19 halftime advantage and then opened up a 51-18 lead in the third quarter before coasting in with the easy win.

LaFonda Thigpen scored 19 points and Yolanda Reynolds added 10 to lead Elba, while Marissa Loman scored 7 points for New Brockton.

Z.C. 30

The Elba Lady Tigers lost their slim lead early in the third stanza and could never catch up as the Opp Lady Bobcats posted a 43-29 win, Thursday night in Opp. The Lady Tigers jumped out to an early 5-4 lead with LaFonda Thigpen, but watched as Opp pulled ahead 11-9 late in the

Opp 43

ELBA 29

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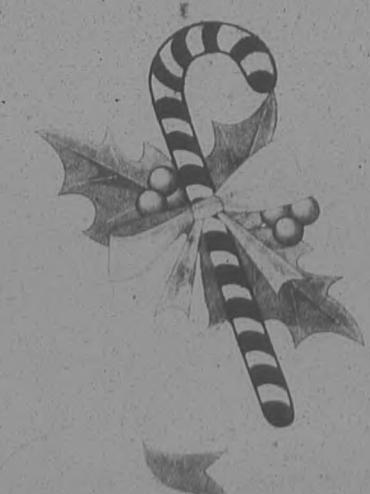


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# COMMUNITY NEWS



**YOUTH NATURE CRAFT WINNERS...** The Coffee County office of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System sponsored a Nature Crafts contest Monday, Dec. 6, in the community room of the county complex in New Brockton. There were two divisions for this contest - youth and adult. In the youth division, first and third place honors went to Amber Barnett (right). Barnett received first place for her log cabin (\$10 prize) and third place for her waxed pine cone (\$3 prize). Second place honors went to Whitney Mills (left) for her birdhouse (\$5 prize).



**ADULT NATURE CRAFT WINNERS...** The Coffee County office of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System sponsored a Nature Crafts contest Monday, Dec. 6, in the community room of the county complex in New Brockton. There were two divisions for this contest - youth and adult. In the adult division, first place honors went to Jennifer Kelley (right) for her straw basket (\$25 prize). Second and third place honors went to Ruthann Newsome (left). Newsome received second place for her leek gourd (\$15 prize) and third place for her apple gourd (\$10 prize).

**Happy Holiday Season**

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# The Elba Clipper

Volume 108, Number 27

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, December 16, 2004

1 Section, 16 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

## Coffee County BOE holds short December meeting

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Board of Education zoomed through its short agenda Thursday evening, Dec. 9, during the regular monthly meeting of the board.

Superintendent Dr. Linda Ingram announced that Kinston School had been approved as an Alabama Reading Initiative School for the 2005-06 school term.

With this approval, she said the system will gain a reading initiative coach for the school, and she asked board members to

give her permission to go ahead and advertise for that position.

Although the superintendent said the position would not be a paid one until the 2005-06 school year, she said going ahead and filling the position might allow the person hired to get some valuable training.

Board members approved this request by a unanimous vote.

The only other matter needing approval by the board involved a personnel matter.

Board members approved the hiring of Alisha Brooks as a part-time lunchroom worker at

## Dykes Rushing retires from Alabama DOT

Dykes T. Rushing of Elba retired in October after a 46-year career with the Alabama Department of Transportation. His employment with ALDOT began March 24, 1958, as Engineering Assistant I, and progressed through the years to Professional Civil Engineer III (Civil Engineering Senior Administrator), and has been State Office Engineer since Nov. 1992.

In this capacity he was overseer of advertisement and receipt of bids for all highway and bridge projects let by ALDOT; had financial control of Federal-aid highway funds allocated to the State of Alabama; had charge of official records, as well as other necessary activities, and service on many committees pertaining to the general function of the ALDOT.

Bids let or awarded under Rushing as State Office Engineer totaled \$5,444,716,074.56, all low bid contracts.

Rushing's wife is Linda, and their two children are Taylor Rushing and Katherine Seiwinder.

**Governor Bob Riley awards grant to assist low-income residents in Southeast Alabama**

Governor Bob Riley has awarded \$77,503 to assist low-income residents in Barbour, Coffee, Geneva, Henry and Houston counties. The grant will be used to help eligible persons, families and the elderly meet the basic needs of living.

"This grant is important because it not only offers low-income families emergency assistance with life necessities," Riley said, "but also supports community-action programs that help Alabamians attain the skills

needed to support themselves.

Riley awarded the grant from

funds the state receives through

the Community Service Block

Grant Program of the U.S.

Department of Health and

Human Services. The primary

purpose of the program is to

assist low-income families to

prevent suffering and hardship

toward self-sufficiency.

Riley has designated the

Alabama Department of

Economic and Community

Services to administer the grant.

Affairs to administer the grant.